



UAV2002

JOINT PROJECT 129

**Airborne Surveillance for Land
Operations**

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Australian Defence Force

Airborne Surveillance for Land Operations

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UAV2002
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Aim

To outline the history and current status of the tactical UAV program of the Australian Defence Force

Scope

- Project genesis
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Lessons Learned
- Future Australian UAV direction?
- Conclusion

Project Genesis

- Consolidation of disparate 'surveillance' projects in 1996
- Capability gap articulated to Higher Defence Committee
- JP129 approved in 1997
 - Phase 1: Risk Management Phase (three years)
 - Phase 2: Follow-on acquisition

Phase 1

- **Explore surveillance capabilities**
 - Broad area
 - Focal area
- **Super King Air 350**
 - 'Ingara' multi-mode radar
 - FLIR
 - Extended Range Optical Sensor (EROS)
- **Tactical UAV trial**
 - Bombardier CL-327 Guardian

Phase 2

- **Government direction**
 - Defence White Paper 'Defence 2000 - Our Future Defence Force'
 - Tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to provide surveillance for deployed land forces
 - planned to enter service from around 2007
 - Phase 2 commenced
- **Indicative requirements**
 - near real-time optical and infra-red imagery
 - day/night operations
 - 100km radius of action
 - land/sea/air deployable system

Current Status

- Higher Defence Committee consideration in late 2002
- Submit to Government for approval in early 2003
- Budget approval in Financial Year 03/04
- Request for Tender release in late 2003

Lessons Learned

- **Focus on the 'information architecture' is paramount**
 - user community input
- **Take time to assess changes in project direction**
- **Short duration 'trials' rarely provide adequate project input**

Future UAV Direction?

- **Bring tactical UAV into service**
- **Continue with Global Hawk cooperative development**
 - US military
 - Northrop Grumman
- **Investigate UCAV utility for ADF?**
- **Investigate UAV options for wider surveillance requirements?**

Conclusions

- JP129 has an important role to play in the ability of the ADF to perform surveillance
- As a new capability, the importance of getting the requirement correct cannot be overstated
- JP129 is committed to achieving the timeframes required by Government



Questions?

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